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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

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United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. 105-14006

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: November 9, 1953

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.
Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: VIOREL TRIFA, with alias
INTERNAL SECURITY - RU

Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 30, 1953, your reference CS DB-6784 and our memorandum dated September 2, 1953, regarding a possible Iron Guardist movement in Canada. DFA-2935

On October 14, 1953, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police forwarded to us a Photostat of an item which appeared in the July 23, 1953, issue of the Communist newspaper "Canadian Jewish Weekly," which is published in Toronto, Canada. This item was published in connection with the Iron Guardist activities with which Trifa has been accused and, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, it reflects the bitter animosity exhibited by the Communists towards Trifa.

A Photostat of this item is enclosed for your information. As soon as additional information is received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with their investigation in Toronto, Ontario, you will be advised.

Enclosure

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1 ENCL. (Misc.)

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NAZI MURDERER OF 6,000 JEWS BISHOP IN CLEVELAND CHURCH

One of the worst Romanian Nazis and Jew-baiters who helped murder over 6,000 Jews in Romania is at this time a bishop in the United States. Responsible sources revealed this to a reporter of the New York "Tag-Morning Journal."

The reporter deems it his duty to make a thorough investigation and inform the Jewish reader of the facts of this case.

The State Department granted a visa several years ago to a Romanian D.P. named Viorel Trifa to enter the United States. It did not take long before the said D.P. became Archbishop in the Romanian Church in Cleveland under the name of "Valerian."

Viorel Trifa was one of the most extreme Nazi Jew-baiters in Romania. Thanks to the hate-campaign he led amongst the Romanian

Exclusive!

population, the Jews in Bucharest were massacred on the days of January 21-23, 1941.

Over six thousand Jews died. Trifa was the one who gave the signal for the "Iron Guard" to start the Pogrom.

On January 19, 1941, he manifested a call to the people in which he wrote that it is the duty of each Romanian to destroy and extinguish Jewish lives. That was the signal for the Pogrom which started with arrests and fights, continued with fires in Synagogues and Jewish institutions and ended with the robbing of Jewish properties.

Within three days, thousands of Jews were killed but the Pogrom still continued. Many Jews were taken out of their houses, from the Synagogues where they were praying, from the streets. There was no exception: men, women, 15-year-old children, 80-year-old grandparents —all were taken to torture centers. Then, after they were tormented, the Jews were pushed into trucks and were brought to a slaughtering house. There they were placed against a wall where all were shot. After the corpses were stripped of the belongings on them, the bodies were hung on hooks, just like a butcher hangs up meat in his butcher shop with signs, "Karne Kosher"—or Kosher Meat.

All this looked so dreadful that even the Military Prosecutor Vladcski, who was authorized to investigate thoroughly the slaughter house, and the brutal acts of torture that took place therein, suffered a nervous shock and had to be taken to a hospital. . . .

In the yard of the slaughter house there lay hundreds of Jews with torn-up bellies and their guts tied to their necks as cravats.

A band of pogrom-makers, under management of Viorel Trifa's right hand man, the dastardly Mircea Petrowishescu, entered the Synagogue and there shot forty Jews while they were praying. Then the band took out the Holy Scrolls from the Arc, tore them up and on the reverse side wrote: "We give you your Bible—take it with you to the Garden of Eden where we have sent you."

A band of Jew-killers in an oil truck then drove to the street where the Great Sephardic Synagogue was located—one of the greatest, most beautiful in Romania—sprinkled kerosene on it and burned it to the ground.

While the Synagogue was burning that band of terrorists danced triumphantly in a circle around the blazing temple, singing Pogrom songs. Another band brought eight Jewish women that were caught in the streets and in their wildness undressed them, kicked them until they fainted, then threw their bodies into the burning building.

All Bucharest was flooded with terror bands which sought to enter houses with the intention of pillaging, robbing and murdering Jewish people. During a period of 70 hours, a band of several tens of thousands of outcasts—men, women and children ran wildly through the streets, halls and houses with only one purpose—to beat, burn, rob and murder Jewish people.

The pogrom started everywhere at the same time—in all streets where Jews lived.

It was dictator-general Antonescu who saw the "joke" going too far. The leaders of the Pogrom, encouraged by the government's complete non-interference, attempted to arouse the mobs into overthrowing the government. This, of course, was too much for Antonescu. . . .

The general took the necessary measures, and in a matter of five hours time, the violence was quelled.

Many of the Pogrom-makers who were subject to arrest, among them Viorel Trifa, were aided by the German High Command to escape to Vienna.

Together with other Nazi rulers, Trifa participated in the government-in-exile that was established in Vienna. During this time they agitated against the United States of America and her Allies.

Today, this murderer and Pogrom leader, thanks to the visa the U.S. State Department gave him, is in the United States of America as Bishop of the Romanian Church in Cleveland.

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